

RESOLUTION NO.: 07-72

RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE CLOSURE BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT OF THE PRIVATELY-OWNED RADIO CARACAS TELEVISION (RCT) STATION AND EXPRESSING OUR DEEP CONCERN FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN VENEZUELA AND FURTHER URGING OTHER STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PUBLICLY CONDEMN THE ACTIONS OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT AS AN ABUSE OF POWER AND AN AFFRONT TO DEMOCRACY.

WHEREAS, freedom of expression is a fundamental right of all persons and an essential element in the development and preservation of a democratic society; and

WHEREAS, the City of Hialeah and its elected officials condemn the repression and intimidation of the press by the Venezuelan government; and

WHEREAS, under the guise of protecting national security and maintaining public order, on May 27, 2007 the Venezuelan government removed from the airwaves the privately-owned, longest operating station Radio Caracas Television (RCT); one of a few stations of national distribution and outspokenly critical of the current government's policies; and

WHEREAS, the closure of RCT was politically-motivated, an abuse of power, and an affront to democracy. The closure of RCT has had a chilling effect on remaining private stations and other media outlets; and

WHEREAS, the closure of RCT is one more example of action taken by the Venezuelan government with the objective of quashing opposition to its policies; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the Venezuelan government are inimical to freedom of expression.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HIALEAH, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. The foregoing facts and recitations contained in the preamble of this resolution are hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

Section 2. The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida strongly condemn the closure of the privately-owned Radio Caracas Television station by the government of Venezuela and express their deep concern for the protection of the right to freedom of expression in Venezuela.

Section 3. The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Hialeah, Florida further urge other state and local governments to publicly condemn the actions of the Venezuelan government as an abuse of power and an affront to democracy.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26 day of June, 2007.



Esteban Bovo
Council President

Attest:

Approved on the 30 day of June, 2007.

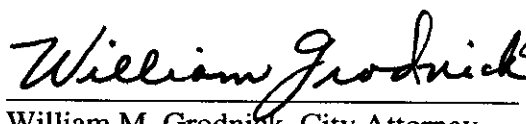


Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk



Mayor Julio Robaina

Approved as to legal sufficiency and form:



William M. Grodnick, City Attorney

Resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote with Councilmembers Bovo, Caragol, Casals-Muñoz, Gonzalez, Hernandez, Miel and Yedra voting "Yes".